

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 15 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 10 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 17 is canceled, without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Addisu and Howell in the April 24, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of a summary of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to comply with the Examiners' helpful suggestion made during the interview. Claims 9 and 10 are amended to independent form based on the Examiners' indication that the rejections of these claims would be withdrawn.

The Office Action, on page 2, objects to the specification, and specifically the Abstract, because the reference numbers are not in parentheses. The Abstract is amended with the inclusion of the attached amended Abstract to remove the reference numbers and obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification, and specifically the Abstract, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 1, rejects claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,077,002 to Lowe. The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 1, 3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,633,776 to Schenk. The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 4, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowe. The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 2 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,916 B1 to Walker et al. (hereinafter "Walker"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method of producing, from a workpiece, a finished disc for a gas turbine engine, the workpiece having a hub and a disc extending radially outwardly from the hub, the method including: forming a support surface on the hub; supporting the workpiece in a machine tool by means of the support surface in a manner which provides tool access to both axial faces of the disc; and performing a sequence of machining operations alternately on opposite sides of the disc while maintaining support of the workpiece by the support surface, wherein the machining operations are turning operations conducted on a lathe.

During the April 24 personal interview, Applicants' representative argued that the subject matter of claim 1, as written, was distinguishable over Lowe. Further, Applicants' representative argued that Lowe and Walker could not be combined in the manner suggested by the Office Action to render obvious the subject matter of claim 17. After careful review of Applicants' arguments, the subject matter of the pending claims, Applicants' disclosure and the applied prior art references, Examiner Howell suggested that, if the subject matter of claim 17 was amended in the manner suggested, and this subject matter incorporated into independent claim 1, such change would overcome the prior art rejection of independent claim 1 over the applied prior art references. Applicants amend claim 1 based on the helpful suggestions of Examiner Howell, and understand that this amendment to claim 1 renders that claim, and the claims depending therefrom, allowable over the applied prior art references.

Claim 9 recites a method of producing, from a workpiece, a finished disc for a gas turbine engine, the workpiece having a hub and a disc extending radially outwardly from the hub, the method including: forming a support surface on the hub; supporting the workpiece in a machine tool by means of the support surface in a manner which provides tool access to both axial faces of the disc; and performing a sequence of machining operations alternately on opposite sides of the disc while maintaining support of the workpiece by the support surface, wherein at least one of the machining operations is delayed after completion of the

immediately preceding machining operation, until distortion resulting from the immediately preceding machining operation has taken effect.

Claim 10 recites a method of producing, from a workpiece, a finished disc for a gas turbine engine, the workpiece having a hub and a disc extending radially outwardly from the hub, the method including: forming a support surface on the hub; supporting the workpiece in a machine tool by means of the support surface in a manner which provides tool access to both axial faces of the disc; and performing a sequence of machining operations alternately on opposite sides of the disc while maintaining support of the workpiece by the support surface, wherein finish machining operations on the disc take place after all rough and semifinish machining operations on both axial faces of the disc have been completed.

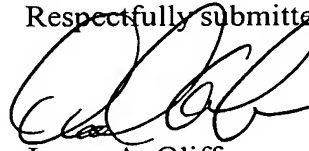
During the April 24 personal interview, Applicants' representative presented arguments regarding the distinguishing features of claims 9-11 over the applied prior art references. The Examiners indicated that the rejections of claims 9-11 would be withdrawn based on Applicants' representative's arguments. Claims 9 and 10 are amended to independent form in view of this indication of the allowability of the subject matter of those claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, any combination of the applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 15 and 16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT/cfr

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time
Amended Abstract

Date: April 28, 2006

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